

Application No. 10/090,978

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-18 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9, and 17 are being amended. Claim 16 is being canceled.

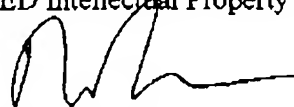
The applicants appreciate the time and courtesy of the Examiner for conducting telephone conferences with the applicants' attorney on December 8 and December 11. The applicants understand that the Examiner agreed to allow the claims as amended. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the applicants' attorney for another telephone conference.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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